

PROCEEDINGS
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DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW BIRDS FROM NORTHWESTERN
MEXICO.

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The birds here described were obtained during the past few months by Mr. E. A. Goldman while making collections in western Mexico for the Biological Survey of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. A number of birds from southwestern Sonora show closer relationship to forms peculiar to the Cape St. Lucas region of Lower California than to races of the same species in southern Arizona. This is well illustrated by several House Finches from Alamos, Sonora, which are scarcely distinguishable from typical *Carpodacus mexicanus ruberrimus* from Lower California. This interesting relationship between the birds of the mainland and those of the peninsula is somewhat similar to that which exists between certain species found near San Blas, Tepic, and their representatives on the Tres Marias Islands.

In addition to the birds named in the present paper, several others have been described from Sonora, south of Guaymas. These are Mr. Brewster's *Psittacula cyanopyga pallida*, *Thryophilus sinaloa cinereus*, and *Polioptila nigriceps restricta* (Auk, VI, pp. 85-98, 1889), and *Callipepla gambeli fulvipectus* Nelson (Auk, XVI, pp. 26-27, 1899), all from Alamos. The result of the comparatively small amount of work on the birds of this region seems to indicate the existence there of a minor faunal area of comparatively limited extent.

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Amazona albifrons saltuensis subsp. nov. Blue-crowned Parrot.

Type No. 164257, ♂ ad., U. S. Nat. Mus., Biological Survey Collection, from Camoa, Sonora, Mexico. Collected January 16, 1899, by E. A. Goldman.

Distribution.—Northern Sinaloa and southwestern Sonora, Mexico.

Subspecific characters.—Compared with specimens of *A. albifrons* from the coast of Oaxaca and Guerrero, the birds from southwestern Sonora may be distinguished by the greater width of blue area on crown, the strong wash of blue over back and sides of neck, and the lighter wash of same over rest of back and on all of under parts; thus giving the plumage a bluish-green cast instead of the oil-green back and apple-green under parts of the presumably typical birds from farther south. No appreciable difference in size.

Dimensions of type. *—Wing 185; tail 97; culmen 25; tarsus 18.

Antrostomus goldmani sp. nov. Goldman's Whippoorwill.

Type No. 164310, ♀ ad., U. S. National Museum, Biological Survey Collection, from vicinity of Mazatlan, Sinaloa, Mexico. Collected April 7, 1899, by E. A. Goldman.

Distribution.—Known only from the type locality.

Specific characters.—Most like *Antrostomus ridgwayi* but larger and paler, with the buffy collar around back of neck narrower. Tarsus feathered only on upper third.

Color.—Top of head and nape pale, brownish drab-gray, with a narrow median line formed of irregular black shaft streaks; feathers on sides of crown and nape with fine black shaft streaks; a grayish white stripe from top of orbit back along sides of nape; ear coverts mottled brownish, bordered below by a narrow line of white; chin and throat grayish brown with the feathers on chin finely mottled with blackish and on lower throat with narrow subterminal black bars and broad white tips; immediately back of this, a collar of golden buffy completely encircling neck; shoulders, back, rump, and upper tail coverts dark gray, finely mottled with pale brown and with distinct shaft streaks of black, heaviest on upper tail coverts; primaries dull black, with large spots of rich fulvous buffy on both webs, and mottled near tips with gray; secondaries blackish coarsely mottled with gray and fulvous buffy; outer web of outer scapulars dull blackish, finely mottled with gray, with roughly oblong black spots forming part of most of black shaft streaks; these black spots and streaks edged with buffy; inner web of inner scapulars like those already described but adjacent inner and outer webs of middle scapulars pale gray, finely mottled with darker, forming a broad, pale, longitudinal band along middle of scapulars on each side of which extend most of the oblong black shaft spots; tail above very similar to back in general color but more coarsely mottled with black; tail below dull blackish, indis-

* All measurements are in millimeters.

tinety banded and coarsely mottled with gray and buff and narrowly tipped with buff; entire breast gray, finely mottled with pale brown and buffy and with fine black shaft streaks; crissum buffy with irregular black bars, coarser and fewer on under tail coverts.

Dimensions.—Wing 163; tail 123; culmen 13; tarsus 18.

General notes.—The crown of *A. goldmani* is much paler than the rest of the back and in the silky gray gloss and pattern of markings closely resembles the crown of a gray specimen of *Nyctidromus albicollis*. It has the same general type of coloration as *A. ridgwayi*, and like it has feathers only on the upper third of the tarsus. Both *A. ridgwayi* and *A. goldmani* are very distinct from *A. salvin*. The latter, although having a very narrow buffy collar around the neck, is a much darker bird with a very different pattern of markings, especially on the wings, and has the upper two-thirds of the tarsus feathered.

***Aphelocoma grisea* sp. nov.** Chihuahua Jay.

Type No. 164250, ♀ ad., U. S. Nat. Mus., Biological Survey Collection, from vicinity of Guachochi, in the Sierra Madre of southern Chihuahua, Mexico. Collected September 27, 1898, by E. A. Goldman.

Distribution.—Oak woods in Sierra Madre of southern Chihuahua, Mexico.

Specific characters.—Nearest *Aphelocoma woodhousei* but the head paler blue, back grayer, and crissum white.

Color of type.—Top of head and neck pale grayish blue approaching China blue; entire back dull gray with faint wash of blue; upper tail coverts azure blue; upper surface of wings and tail a little darker blue than crown; ears and sides of head dark gray glossed with blue, especially on cheeks; narrow superciliary streak of white extending back from upper border of orbit; chin and under side of neck to fore breast dull whitish with pale bluish gray streaks; breast and front part of flanks dingy gray shading posteriorly into the white area occupying entire crissum.

Dimensions of type.—Wing 138; tail 140; culmen 24; tarsus 39.

General notes.—*Aphelocoma grisea* may be distinguished from both *A. woodhousei* and *A. cyanotis* by the paler, grayer color of its upper parts, the obsolescence of the streaking on the under side of the neck and fore breast, and the white crissum.

***Pipilo fuscus intermedius* subsp. nov.** Alamos Pipilo.

Type No. 164259, ♂ ad., U. S. Nat. Mus., Biological Survey Collection, from Alamos, Sonora, Mexico. Collected December 21, 1898, by E. A. Goldman.

Distribution.—Coast region of southern Sonora and northern Sinaloa, Mexico.

Subspecific characters.—Size intermediate between *Pipilo fuscus mesoleucus* and *P. f. albigula*. Back clearer or more ashy gray than in either *albigula* or *mesoleucus*; crown ordinarily like back with only a trace of

rufous; under surface of body much like *mesoleucus* but the flanks a little darker ashy.

Measurements of type.—Wing 93; tail 105; culmen 13.5; tarsus 26.

General notes.—The strongest character of *P. f. intermedius* is the absence of rusty rufous on the crown and the grayer back as contrasted with the rusty crown and brownish gray back of both *mesoleucus* and *albigula*.

Cardinalis cardinalis affinis subsp. nov. Sonora Cardinal.

Type No. 164258, ♀ ad., U. S. Nat. Mus., Biological Survey Collection, from Alamos, Sonora, Mexico. Collected January 28, 1899, by E. A. Goldman.

Distribution.—Coast region of southern Sonora and northern Sinaloa, Mexico.

Subspecific characters.—Size of *Cardinalis c. igneus* from which the females may be distinguished by narrower bill, grayer upper parts, and duller or less buffy under parts; dark chin patch absent as in *igneus*. The males scarcely distinguishable from those of *igneus* except by their slenderer bills.

Dimensions of type.—Wing 92; tail 104; culmen 17; width of bill at base 12; tarsus 25.

General notes.—*Cardinalis c. affinis* is much more like *C. c. igneus* of the Cape St. Lucas region than like *C. c. superbus* of southern Arizona and northern Sonora. *C. c. superbus* is a much larger bird and the female is browner above, more buffy ochraceous below, and has a distinct dark chin patch. An adult female from Tucson, Arizona, measures: Wing 104; tail 123; culmen 19; width of bill at base 13.5; tarsus 27.

Cardinalis cardinalis sinaloensis subsp. nov. Sinaloa Cardinal.

Type No. 164375, ♀ ad., U. S. Nat. Mus., Biological Survey Collection, from Culiacan, Sinaloa, Mexico. Collected March 18, 1899, by E. A. Goldman.

Distribution.—Coast plains and foothills of central and southern Sinaloa, and probably south to Colima, Mexico.

Subspecific characters.—Size nearly the same as that of *Cardinalis c. igneus*, but bill longer and slenderer; color of male lighter and more vivid red; color of female above, darker and grayer but with more red on wings and tail; below darker and more brownish fulvous with an indistinct dark grayish chin patch. Compared with *C. c. superbus*, size much smaller; male brighter, more carmine red; female—above, darker gray, below darker, more brownish fulvous. The female differs from that of *C. c. affinis* in its smaller size and much darker and more brownish fulvous color of under parts.

Dimensions of type.—Wing 87; tail 96; culmen 18; tarsus 26.

Arremonops superciliosa sinaloæ subsp. nov. Mazatlan Sparrow.

Type No. 164388, ♂ ad., U. S. Nat. Mus., Biological Survey Collection, from vicinity of Mazatlan, Sinaloa, Mexico. Collected April 6, 1899, by E. A. Goldman.

Distribution.—Coast lowlands of western Mexico from Mazatlan at least to southern border of the Territory of Tepic.

Subspecific characters.—Similar to *Arremonops superciliosa sumichrasti*, but the median line of crown and sides of head more ashy; foreback distinctly shaded with ashy and rest of back clearer and less olive green; under parts paler and less buffy. Median and superciliary crown streaks darker ashy than in typical *superciliosa*, the rufous lateral stripes paler; chin and throat much paler and less buffy—about as in *sumichrasti*; back a little grayer.

Dimensions of type.—Wing 65; tail 56; culmen 13; tarsus 20.5.

General notes.—By a slip of the pen in the 'Auk' for April, 1898, p. 157, I placed *A. sumichrasti* as a subspecies of *rufivirgata*. In fact it is a subspecies of the quite distinct *A. superciliosa*, which (with all its subspecies) belongs to the west coast of Central America and Mexico. *A. rufivirgata* and its subspecies belong to the east coast.

***Basileuterus rufifrons caudatus* subsp. nov.** Sonora Warbler.

Type No. 164260, ♂ ad., U. S. Nat. Mus., Biological Survey Collection, from vicinity of Alamos, Sonora, Mexico. Collected January 3, 1899, by E. A. Goldman.

Distribution.—Southwestern Sonora and northern Sinaloa, Mexico.

Subspecific characters.—Similar to *Basileuterus rufifrons jouyi* from which it differs in the paler and more restricted rufous area on crown; rather paler gray of back; more fulvous color on crissum combined with shorter wing and longer tail and tarsus.

Dimensions of type.—Wing 51; tail 60; culmen 10; tarsus 23. Type of *B. r. jouyi*.—Wing 52; tail 56; culmen 9; tarsus 20.

***Thryothorus felix pallidus* subsp. nov.** Mazatlan Wren.

Type No. 164270, ♀ ad., U. S. Nat. Mus., Biological Survey Collection, from Chacala, Durango, Mexico. Collected February 27, 1899, by E. A. Goldman.

Distribution.—Arid tropical region of western Mexico, from northern Sinaloa and western Durango to southwestern Puebla and northern Guerrero, Mexico.

Subspecific characters.—Generally similar to typical *T. felix*, but slightly smaller, with upper parts less rufous and more olive brown; tail paler brown, with much more distinct black bars; under parts paler, and under tail coverts barred with dingy whitish and black instead of rufous brown and black.

Dimensions of type.—Wing 56; tail 53; culmen 14; tarsus 21.

General notes.—*Thryothorus felix* was described from southwestern Oaxaca. We have a winter specimen taken at Ometepe, Guerrero, so near the type locality both in distance and climatic conditions that I am safe in considering it typical, and have used it as such in the foregoing comparison. Numerous specimens from Tepic, Sinaloa, and western Durango agree with the type of *Thryothorus f. pallidus*.

Heleodytes stridulus sp. nov. Brown-backed Wren.

Type No. 164261, ♀ ad., U. S. Nat. Mus., Biological Survey Collection, from Sierra de Choix, northeastern Sinaloa, Mexico. Collected October 16, 1898, by E. A. Goldman.

Distribution.—Arid mountain slopes of northeastern Sinaloa and adjacent parts of Sonora, Mexico.

Description of type.—Crown blackish brown, darkest on forehead; superciliary stripe from bill to nape white, washed with fulvous brown; loreal and postocular stripe blackish; cheeks from gape dingy whitish; malar stripe black; sides of neck dingy whitish, streaked with dull blackish and thinly washed with dull fulvous; back and scapulars burnt umber brown, marked with irregular white shaft streaks and obscure blackish spots; upper tail coverts transversely barred with umber brown, black and whitish; outside of wings marked with spots of umber brown, black and whitish; middle tail feathers ashy brown, indistinctly and narrowly barred with blackish; lateral feathers black, with dingy ashy tips and a series of brownish white spots along outer webs; chin, throat, breast, and middle of belly white, faintly washed with brown and spotted on breast and flanks with black; flanks posteriorly and entire crissum cinnamon brown, brightest on under tail coverts.

Measurements of type.—Wing 75; tail 76; culmen 19.5; tarsus 24.

General notes.—This species is nearest *H. gularis*, from which it is easily distinguished by the blackish brown crown, blackish postocular stripe, and darker brown back. The black spots on breast and flanks are rounded instead of being mainly pointed anteriorly (and thus subtriangular), as in *H. gularis*. Typical specimens of *H. gularis* in the Biological Survey Collection from the Sierra Nevada de Colima, southern Jalisco, and from the Sierra Madre of southern Sinaloa and the Nayarit Mountains of Tepic, just west of Bolaños, outline the known range of this species, and the specimens from the mountains of Sonora referred to *H. gularis* by Salvin and Godman (Ibis, 1889, p. 235) are, no doubt, referable to *H. stridulus*.

Myadestes obscurus cinereus subsp. nov. Sonora Solitaire.

Type No. 164262, ♀ ad., U. S. Nat. Mus., Biological Survey Collection, from mountains near Alamos, Sonora, Mexico. Collected January 3, 1899, by E. A. Goldman.

Distribution.—Arid mountains of southern Sonora and adjacent part of Sinaloa, Mexico.

Subspecific characters.—Most like *M. yadestes o. insularis* but with the ashy gray of upper parts even paler than in that form and extending farther down over fore back; rump and middle tail feathers clearer ashy and interscapular area less suffused with brown. Under parts much as in *M. o. occidentalis* but clearer ashy, with white area on abdomen more restricted than in *insularis*.

Measurements of type.—Wing 104; tail 104; culmen 11.5; tarsus 20.

General notes.—This form equals *Myadestes o. occidentalis* in size but is

much paler, and is, in fact, the palest known subspecies of *M. obscurus*. The present record extends the range of this species far north along the west coast of Mexico. *M. townsendi* is the resident species in the high pine forests of the Sierra Madre of northwestern Mexico, the present form belonging to the lower, drier ranges between the Sierra Madre and the coast.

***Catharus olivascens* sp. nov.** Chihuahua Thrush.

Type No. 164263, ♂ ad., U. S. Nat. Mus., Biological Survey Collection, from the Sierra Madre, Chihuahua (65 miles east of Batopilas), Mexico. Collected September 30, 1898, by E. A. Goldman.

Distribution.—Known only from the type locality.

Description of type.—Top of head and nape raw umber brown; sides of head and neck hair brown, underlaid with pale buffy; back, including scapulars and rump, olive brown, contrasting with color of crown and nape; outside of wings and upper tail coverts similar to, but browner than back; tail grayish brown washed on exposed parts with tawny olive; chin, throat and upper part of breast, pale creamy buff, streaked or mottled with hair brown shaded with olive; rest of breast, abdomen, and under tail coverts white; upper part of flanks pale grayish brown.

Measurements of type.—Wing 91; tail 77; culmen 13; tarsus 31.

General notes.—This species is most closely related to *Catharus occidentalis fulvescens* Nelson, but the colors of the upper parts are much more olivaceous, the throat and middle of breast deeper buffy with heavier gray markings, and the wash of gray on the sides of the body much more restricted, leaving a larger area of pure white. The bill is longer and slenderer and the tarsus shorter. The presence of a species of *Catharus* in Chihuahua extends the range of the genus far north of any former record, and was unexpected after my unsuccessful efforts, during the summer of 1898, to find the bird in Durango and extreme southern Chihuahua.